RAI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Qualitative Change in Country's Power Supply

613. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hydel-Thermal Mix of the country's power supply has undergone a qualitative change and the share of hydel power in the Mix has progressively come down;

(b) whether Government view this development with concern; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The hydro share at the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan was 33.9%. It is likely to decline to about 29.5% by the end of the Seventh Plan.

(b) and (c) A number of hydro-electric power projects have been proposed for construction in the Central and State sectors for benefits in the Eighth Plan. External assistance is also proposed to be availed of for hydro power development in the country. Efforts are being made to reduce the construction period of hydel projects.

Gas-Based Power Generation

614. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gas-based thermal power generation is cheaper than coal-based or hydel-based power generation;

(b) whether there is a demand from the Tamil Nadu Government to have a gas grid from Bombay High to Southern States and also a gas grid connecting Krishna, Godavari and Cauveri basins; and

(c) if so, what is Central Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There are no proposals for the setting up of gas grids from Bombay High to the Southern States and for connecting the Krishna Godavari and Cauveri Basins.

Hungarian Aid for Neyveli Thermal Power Project

615. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed an agreement with the Hungarian Government recently with a view to availing of credit for a thermal Power unit at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what are the details of the project; and

(c) what are the details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) The Government of India have signed on 7-7-89 an agreement with the Government of Hungary under which the latter will make available to the Government of India a credit of upto US Dollars 200 million for development of projects in the fields of Energetics, Power, Mining, Machine building etc.